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That would be about 15 percent of the approximately 115 million bushels that the state sends to market each year, said Steve Riggins, a University of Kentucky grain market specialist.

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But a Louisville ethanol plant wouldn't necessarily have a direct impact on Kentucky farmers because shipping patterns make it more likely that the corn would come from Ohio, Riggins said. "You're not going to pull grain from Fulton County on the Mississippi River back to Louisville."

The plant's appetite for corn could add a few cents a bushel to the overall market price, he said.

For the People is a family enterprise that includes Frank Wethington, two of his daughters and a son-in-law, Milburn said. He declined to discuss the project further.

In a statement, Milburn said the company also is considering locating in Indiana.

Metro government spokesman Chris Poynter said the city has been following the ethanol project and hopes it locates in Louisville, both for the economic impact and for the company's apparent commitment to operating an environmentally friendly facility.

Plans include capturing and selling the carbon dioxide and grain solids produced in distilling ethanol, plus wastewater treatment for the 2 million gallons of water the plant would use each day.

A spokeswoman for the Speedway chain of gas-and-convenience stores said the company is always looking for new product sources, but it has a 50 percent partnership in a 110 million-gallon-a-year ethanol plant under construction in Ohio.

Reporter David Goetz can be reached at (502) 582-4698.

STORYCHAT

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I hope not, and if louisville wants it so bad they can place it in the east end.

Posted: Thu Mar 08, 2007 7:11 pm

I hope not too.

Posted: Thu Mar 08, 2007 11:01 am

Although it would be a welcome boost to have access to more of an alternative fuel, I certainly hope that Riverport won't eventually become the new "RUBBERPORT."

Posted: Thu Mar 08, 2007 10:15 am

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